1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
2	DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA			
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4	United States of America,) CR 10-159 (DWF/FLN)			
5)			
6	Plaintiff,) CRIMINAL JURY TRIAL) OPENING STATEMENT BY			
7	-v-) THE PROSECUTION)			
8	Barry Vincent Ardolf,) December 15, 2010) 3:00 o'clock, p.m.			
9	Defendant.) St. Paul, Minnesota			
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12	BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE DONOVAN W. FRANK			
13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE			
14	CRIMINAL JURY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS			
15	OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PROSECUTION			
16	EXCERPT OF VOLUME I			
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16			(Defendant present.)	
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3 1 (In open court; jury present.) THE COURT: 2 It is now the opportunity of Mr. Rank on behalf of the United States to present his 3 opening remarks. So, I will call upon Mr. Rank at this 4 5 time. Thank you, Your Honor. 6 MR. RANK: 7 Honor, I don't know if there is a medium light situation and we can be able to see the screen a little bit better 8 than that? Good. Thank you. 9 10 THE COURT: I just want to remind the jury. 11 You heard me say this during jury selection. I have 12 certain computer-generated light settings. It is not to 13 generate mood in here. And more importantly, in all seriousness, it is not to emphasize any particular part 14 15 of a trial or an exhibit. Sometimes I will be asked by one of the lawyers to do it, because unlike yourselves, 16 17 each of the attorneys at the tables, and myself, in addition to this screen, we have a monitor. And anybody 18

The sole purpose, and sometimes I will often do it on my own, and that is why we have tried to generate certain settings to emphasize the screen, is for your benefit, without me trying to emphasize a

in the audience or the spectator group has a plasma

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particular thing, because I will oftentimes do it on my

own accord. And we have tried to adjust the lighting, so the lighting stays and remains on each counsel table and on you, to an extent, and of course the Court. So, you may proceed.

MR. RANK: Thank you, Your Honor. Good afternoon. May it please the Court? Counsel? Ladies and gentlemen of the jury?

As the Judge told you, my name is Tim Rank.

I am an Assistant United States Attorney. And along
with Assistant United States Attorney Laura Provinzino
and FBI Special Agents Robert Cameron and Dennis Howe,
we represent the United States in this criminal case.

So, why are we here? As Judge Frank told you, the Defendant Barry Ardolf has been charged by indictment. You are going to see a copy of the indictment at some point in time in this case, but I will show you the front page of it.

In an indictment, the United States Grand

Jury has charged Mr. Ardolf with felony charges of

unauthorized access to a protected computer. Aggravated

identity theft, possession of child pornography,

transmission of child pornography, and threats, death

threats to the Vice-President of the United States.

Those are the charges.

What is the case really about? This case is

really about the Defendant Barry Ardolf waging a campaign to terrorize his neighbors, to destroy their careers and their marriage, and to do what he could to destroy their lives.

Now, Judge Frank read a summary of the indictment to you earlier. And again, you will see the indictment at the end of this case. And you are going to see in the indictment there are a couple of people that are described in the indictment as Victim A and Victim B. And that is how they are framed in the indictment. And you will learn that both of these people, Victim A and Victim B, they are real people. And you will hear them testify at trial.

I want to talk to you about, first of all, the person identified in the indictment as Victim A. Victim A is Matt Kostolnik, the neighbor of Barry Ardolf. You will hear him testify. As you will hear him testify, he does not like to be referred to as a victim.

But, as the evidence will show in this case and as you will learn at trial, the reason we are here is because Barry Ardolf sought to victimize Matt Kostolnik and Matt Kostolnik's family. And how did he do that? What happened?

Before we get to the details of the

Defendant's crimes and what he did, the "what" of what he did, it is important to learn the "why." Why would this Defendant work so hard, put so much effort into trying to harm his neighbor's life? To answer that question we have to go back to the summer of 2008 when Matt Kostolnik and his wife Bethany Kostolnik bought a new home. They had two boys under the age of five.

They had a 4-year-old and an 18-month-old, and Bethany was several months pregnant with their third child.

They were looking to move to a different house. They wanted a house where they could raise their

house. They wanted a house where they could raise their family. And they wanted a house in a neighborhood with lots of kids, quiet neighborhood with adjoining yards where the kids could have friends and they could run from yard to yard playing. A house on a quiet cul-de-sac is what they were looking for. And they looked at a lot of places. They finally found in the summer of 2008 what they believed to be was their dream home. It was a home on Xxxxx Xxxxx in Blaine,

Minnesota. I am showing and you an aerial photograph of the neighborhood of Xxxxx Xxxxx.

You can see a little cul-de-sac area. And if I click that you can see there is an arrow that points at the house that Matt and Bethany Kostolnik bought in the summer of 2008 on what they thought was a quiet

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cul-de-sac. So, they moved into this house in August of 2008. And on August 2nd of 2008, the day that they were moving in, unpacking boxes, the evening of that day, Matt Kostolnik was upstairs in one of the rooms unpacking boxes, and Bethany Kostolnik was downstairs watching the two boys.

Their 4-year-old, Wxxxxxx, was in the front yard of the house. If I blow this up, it is a little bit closer view of the house. The Kostolniks' residence is the house at the bottom. And Wxxxxxx was running around in the front yard. And Bethany saw Wxxxxxx run over to the neighbor's yard. And you can see the neighbor's yard right there. And he was attracted by what you can see the arrow pointing to there, which is a playset in the back yard. Bethany saw Wxxxxxx run into the yard. She called for him to come back. He didn't come back, he is four. And she walked closer to the neighbor's yard, but at the same time she was trying to get Wxxxxxx back from the neighbor's yard their 18-month-old was standing in the doorway. And she was trying at the same time to keep him in the doorway as bringing the four-year-old back into the yard.

She eventually walked over towards the neighbor's yard. And as she was walking over, a man came down from, you can see the deck area there on the

neighbor's yard, and he walked down to the area where Wxxxxx was by the playset.

And when he went down there, he didn't address Bethany, who was on her way over there, didn't make eye contact with her, but instead went straight over to Wxxxxxx.

He called out to Wxxxxxx: Bet you can't touch me. And then tried to get the child to chase after him. Eventually he picked the child up and walked him back over towards the front door of the Kostolniks' house which is shown there by the arrow.

Now, at that point in time, Bethany Kostolnik grabbed her 18-month-old and brought him inside of the house. And as she was putting her 18-month old in the house, she turned her back to the man who had Wxxxxxx in his arms. And when her back was turned, she heard the man kiss Wxxxxxx, an audible kiss, something that she describes as a wet kiss.

Bethany was taken aback by it. She turned around and she grabbed Wxxxxxx from the man's arms. She got in the house. She closed the door. She went upstairs and got the two kids situated in another room and then she went into the room that Matt was unpacking boxes in, sat down on the bed and began to sob. She was so unnerved by this encounter, by the man's focus on the

child, running away from him and saying: Bet you can't touch me. And ultimately, the wet kiss.

She sat down, and she told her husband the story while crying. She said: Who have we moved next door to? And even though they had just bought this house, the house they thought was the house of their dreams, she told them that they should move. They just moved in, but she wanted to move. They didn't know what to do.

And the next day after this incident,

Wxxxxxx, unsolicited, told Bethany that the man had

kissed him on the lips. And at that point in time Matt

Kostolnik decided he was going to go over and ask the

man what had happened. So, he went over and asked the

man what happened in the incident with Wxxxxxx.

The man grudgingly told him a little bit about what had happened, a little bit at a time, everything but the kiss. And finally, when Matt Kostolnik pressed the man, he admitted he kissed him good-bye. And when Matt said where, he pointed to his mouth.

Now, again, Matt and Bethany didn't know what to do, Matt went and talked to his father. And after talking to his father, he decided to report the incident to the police. So, he called the Blaine Police

Department. An officer came out to the Kostolniks' residence and took a police report. The officer also went next door to speak with the man. And as you will learn at trial, the man who lived in that house was the Defendant Barry Ardolf.

And ladies and gentlemen, it was apparently this incident, and particularly the fact that Matt Kostolnik reported the incident to the police, that motivated the Defendant to begin what can only be described as a methodical campaign to terrorize the Kostolniks. For the Kostolnik family, they went from the excitement of thinking that they had moved into the home of their dreams, to the nightmare of being targeted by the Defendant.

So, how was it that Barry Ardolf targeted, harassed, the Kostolnik family? What did he do? First of all I need to back-up, you have to understand that Barry Ardolf is a computer enthusiast. He worked as a computer repair technician for hardware devices used in the medical industry. And more important, he had spent years learning about computers, wireless networking, and in particular, computer hacking. He had taken a course on computer hacking. He had numerous books and manuals on computer hacking in his house. He even had a bumper sticker on the mirror over his bed proudly proclaiming

that he was a hacker.

As you can see, some are on the screen, photographs that were taken months after this incident. Barry Ardolf's residence was searched in July of 2009. And when his house was searched, you can see this is a photograph of his bed. On the bookshelf above his bed you can see a series of books.

And I will zoom in on a few of them, because you can see that amongst those books are a series of volumes on computer hacking. The art of intrusion, intrusion is another name for hacking or exploits. In the middle of that same stack of books, a book on extreme exploits, the art of deception, a computer hacking book. A book, tellingly, on wireless networking. You will learn that that is an important thing in the course of this case, his knowledge of wireless routers and wireless networking devices. And then finally, as shown on know the screen, a series of books on computer hacking. This was in his bedroom.

And on, as I noted before, the mirror above his bed, he even had a bumper sticker saying that he was a computer hacker. Now, you will see that this bumper sticker says, ethical hacker, certified ethical hacker. That is how some of the manuals and the classes in this area are labeled. And there are people who do

legitimate network security work, who will take hacking courses to find out what is out there, what kind of hacking is out there to be able to put up defenses.

But, there are also, as you will learn in this case, many people who take these cases and use them for illegal purposes. And what is clear, what became clear months later when Barry Ardolf's house was searched, was that Barry Ardolf knew a lot about computer hacking.

Now, you will learn that Barry Ardolf knew about computer hacking from the classes he had taken, from the manuals he had read, and that he also did additional, very specific, research in order to get the information that he needed to hack into the Kostolniks' wireless router to get access to their computer system. You will learn that the Kostolniks had what is called a wireless router. And as we learned from the questioning from Judge Frank today, many of you have wireless routers at your house and are aware of how they work; that they are used to connect wirelessly to the internet using a laptop or an iPad or some other wireless device.

And as you will learn in this case, and perhaps like some of you, the Kostolniks didn't know a whole lot about the right way to protect their wireless router. They had turned on the encryption function on the wireless router, that is the thing that makes it say

you have to enter a password in order to connect up wirelessly.

But, unfortunately, the option they used for encrypting their wireless router was one of the options available on the router they got from Qwest, was something called WEP, W-E-P, encryption. And WEP, or W-E-P stands for wired equivalent privacy, WEP.

It is, unfortunately, a very weak encryption standard. The Kostolniks didn't know this, but that is very well known in the hacking community that WEP encryption is something that is easy to hack into. And what the evidence at trial will show is that Barry Ardolf knew this. And in February of 2009, he used his knowledge, his very specific research, to crack the encryption key that the Kostolniks used to password protect their wireless router. And with this encryption key, with this access to the wireless router, Barry Ardolf was able to get access to the Kostolniks' computers, and he was able to use the internet through the wireless router.

And what that meant was when he did that and went through their wireless router, and he used the internet or sent e-mails through it or did anything through it, it would look like that access was being done by the Kostolniks through their own router. And

that, ladies and gentlemen, as you will learn, is exactly why Barry Ardolf did that, why he hacked into the router why he compromised it, why he got into the Kostolniks' router.

How did he use that power? Well, first he did some more research. And as you will learn at trial his residence was searched in July of 2009. The FBI searched it and found lots and lots and lots of detailed notes that Barry Ardolf kept on his hacking of his neighbors and all of the things that he was doing with the information that he obtained.

He kept detailed notes on his computer. And the FBI found them when they searched his house and found multiple computers, external hard drives, thumb drives, and data CDs and DVDs. You will see a lot of these notes that he kept during the course of trial.

You will learn that in doing his research, the Defendant learned that Matt Kostolnik was a lawyer and that he worked at a law firm called Moss & Barnett. This is a computer file you will see on the screen that was found on a thumb drive in Barry Ardolf's bedroom during that July 2009 search. And it was in a file that he had named, I bet my CO2.txt -- do you see that in the upper left-hand corner? I think I can -- you can see that up there. And on here you can see again in the

upper left-hand corner of the file, which I will blow up, that he had information on Matt Kostolnik, his work telephone number which I have blacked out, his work e-mail address, and also information on who was Matt Kostolnik's legal assistant. And you will see that that person's name is Brenda Murphy. I want you to remember Brenda Murphy's name for the moment.

What did he do with this information? And we have got to go back in time again to tell you what he did with this. Because what you will learn is that a few months before he completed the hack of the Kostolniks' router in February of 2009, he created a couple of things. He created a fake Yahoo.com e-mail address in Matt Kostolnik's name,

MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com, and he created a fake
MySpace.com web page.

Now, you will learn that in order to create these things, a Yahoo.com e-mail address, a MySpace page, a gmail address, you don't need to be who you say you are. You don't have to be Matt Kostolnik in order to get Matt Kostolnik at Yahoo.com. And Google and Yahoo and MySpace and do not make you prove you are who you purport to be in order to get those things. You just have to sign up for them.

But, what they do do is they keep records of

where these accounts are signed up for, and when they were created.

And you will learn that these two accounts right here, the MattKostolnik@yahoo.com e-mail account, and then the Matt Kostolnik MySpace page were created, both of them, on November 18th, 2008, from a public library computer in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

You will also learn that when Barry Ardolf's house was searched in July of 2009, he kept notes on both of these accounts on his computer.

Let me show you one. This is again from a file, a computer file recovered from a thumb drive from Barry Ardolf's bedroom. And it is a file entitled AlamoMattAllStuff.txt, and you will see a number of these files during the course of the trial. You will see how detailed he maintained these notes.

On here you can see there are notes relating to him watching and almost doing surveillance of a birthday party taking place at the Kostolniks' house, reference to phone numbers, address, license number of vehicles, of the cars. And the thing that I am focusing on at the bottom and will blow up for your attention is he had on here, MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com, a password, "TheTrust12345" and as you can see, a security question and answer to get access to that account at a later

time, information that you get at the time you are creating that account.

Now, in another file also found in Barry Ardolf's bedroom during the July 2009 search warrant, this is a file entitled, MattMySpaceLogIn.txt. I will click and blow up the center portion of it so you can see that this is information related to that MySpace account, the MySpace password. And you can see the e-mail address he used to create the MySpace page was that same MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com e-mail address.

Because you need, in order to set up a MySpace page, MySpace has to be able to send you an e-mail with your confirmation information on it, and that is what is referenced in there.

So, what did Barry Ardolf do with this information? What did he do with the fake e-mail and the fake MySpace page? We will talk about the fake e-mail address first. After he had hacked the Kostolniks' wireless router, he used the router to send e-mails from that Yahoo.com address, this address right here. And you remember, I asked you to remember Brenda Murphy's name, because he had done research, and we saw the notes, the detailed notes that he kept, some of which referenced Matt Kostolnik's legal assistant Brenda Murphy. And he used that information to send an e-mail

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1
    with the Matt Kostolnik MySpace account. Excuse me,
2
    MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com e-mail address.
3
                I am putting up on the screen an e-mail that
    was sent in the early morning hours of February 22nd,
4
    2009 from the MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com e-mail address to
5
6
    Brenda Murphy.
7
                Subject line: You are such a fox.
                I was thinking of you on Valentine's Day.
8
                                                            Ι
    wouldn't mind at all if you wanted to sneak me a kiss
9
10
    when nobody is looking. Remember what Bill Clinton
11
    finally fessed up to? I want that from you, signed
12
    Matt.
13
                This is going to Matt Kostolnik's legal
    assistant, sent by Barry Ardolf.
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15
                Now, how do we know that it was sent by Barry
16
    Ardolf? Well -- and I guess what I would want to back
17
    up and tell you, that when this e-mail came in in
18
    February of 2009, it came in on a Sunday. Brenda Murphy
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    came into work on Monday morning. She gets this e-mail,
20
    reacts to it as you would expect her to react to it.
21
    But, she thought it was out of character for Matt
22
    Kostolnik, so she printed out the e-mail. She had
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    worked with him for several years before this time.
24
                So, she printed out the e-mail. She walked
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    into his office. She put it on his desk and said:
                                                         Do
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we have something to talk about? She will tell you when
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    she testifies that Matt Kostolnik turned red, told
    Brenda Murphy he had never sent the e-mail, and he had
3
    never this e-mail address.
 4
                He also learned that later that morning that
 5
6
    Matt Kostolnik learned from the law firm's IT
7
    Department, that two other lawyers at Moss & Barnett,
    the law firm that he worked at had received e-mails from
8
    the same Yahoo.com address. One of them went to Philip
9
10
    Young. You will see that this one is related to the
11
    Brenda Murphy e-mail.
12
                It is from the MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com e-mail
13
    address to Philip Young.
14
                Hey, Phil, ask Brenda if she liks, l-i-k-s,
15
    misspelled, me. And then it says, Philip, hey, Phil,
16
    ask Brenda if she again, liks me, likes me, likes me,
17
    because I like her. What can I say? I think she's
    cute, Matt.
18
19
                This is going to Philip Young who was another
20
    lawyer at Moss & Barnett.
21
                Now, again, I showed you some of the notes
    that were found on Barry Ardolf's computer in his
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23
    bedroom during the July 2009 search. I will show you
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    one more, and this is found on that same text file we
25
    had looked at before, the "IBetMyCO2.txt" file recovered
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from his bedroom. And in this, at the bottom, I will blow it up so it is easier to see, is the name of the person who had the e-mail sent to them, Philip Young, his e-mail address, YoungP@Moss-Barnett.com, and the exact text of the subject line of that e-mail, including l-i-k-s, that misspelling, that you can see if you compare those notes to the e-mail that was sent to Philip Young, also on February 22nd of 2009.
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Now, so at this point in time he knows that two e-mails have been sent to people at Moss & Barnett and the IT Department informed him on that morning, February 23rd, 2009 that yet another lawyer had received an e-mail from the Yahoo.com address. And this one, as you can see, went to a person by the name of Dave Senger.

And it is from the MattKostolnik@Yahoo.com e-mail address. And the subject line is, family pic from Matt. It says, check it out, new family pic. I was thinking you could appreciate these. Plausible deniability, right? Matt K.

Now, as you learn in this trial Dave Senger is the Chairman of the Management Committee at Moss & Barnett. Matt Kostolnik was a relatively young attorney at Moss & Barnett.

Dave Senger was the firm's top lawyer, the

Chairman of the Management Committee, sort of the top
guy at Moss & Barnett. And as you will learn -- let me
go back to some of these text files of the notes that
Barry Ardolf was keeping, he knew that. In fact, he
kept in his notes that the big guy at Moss & Barnett was
SengerD@Moss-Barnett.

Now, if we go back to the e-mail, you will note that there are a couple of attachments that are on this e-mail. And you will learn at trial that when Matt Kostolnik was told about this e-mail by the IT Department, the IT Department also said, there are two photos attached to one of the e-mails, and they contain pornographic material.

Matt Kostolnik saw the name of one of them.

It says, "Matts kids." And he became frantic. He was wondering if somehow someone had a picture of his children. He went down to the IT Department. He looked at the picture, and he was sort of relieved it wasn't his kids. But, not very relieved, because what it turned out to be was a picture of child pornography.

Now, the picture was a picture of children engaged in sex acts. I am going to show you on the screen what is called a redacted version of the attachment, meaning there is going to be a big black box over a chunk of it. But, this, ladies and gentlemen,

shows the photograph that was attached to the e-mail that was sent to Dave Senger in Matt Kostolnik's name on February 22nd, 2009, by the Defendant Barry Ardolf. It shows three real identified children engaged in sexual contact.

Now, it is blacked out here. It is described in the indictment. You will hear some testimony about what is shown in there, because we have to meet the elements of the offense, as the Judge described them to you. And you will learn through that testimony that the picture that was sent with the e-mail was a picture of real children involved in sexual acts.

What you will also learn is that this was sent in a February 22nd e-mail. When Barry Ardolf's house was searched several months later on July 21st, 2009, this same picture was found on several computers located in Barry Ardolf's bedroom.

As you can see on the left-hand side of the picture as it was found on the attachment to the Dave Senger e-mail, and what is shown on the right-hand side are the five different places that same picture was found on computers or computer media in Barry Ardolf's bedroom when his house was searched in July of 2009.

Now, after the three e-mails came to the Moss & Barnett employees in February of 2009, we didn't have

the benefit of what was found during the search warrant several months later. So, I am showing you information that law enforcement doesn't find out for a few months.

When you go back to February of 2009, Matt Kostolnik, all he knows is that someone is sending e-mails to his co-workers, his legal assistant, his supervisor, in his name, some of them containing child pornography.

Who sent them? Why? They are certainly not the kind of things that anyone would want to have sent to their assistant or their boss. So, he spoke to the management of Moss & Barnett. It was obviously an area of concern for the law firm. And he assured them that he hadn't sent the e-mails.

He also reported the sending of the e-mails to the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. He was put in touch with Detective Pat O'Hara. Pat O'Hara is assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force at the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. It is a unit that investigates child exploitation crimes, child pornography crimes using computers.

Shortly after getting involved in the investigation, Detective O'Hara, as you will learn, reached out to the FBI's Cybercrime Task Force. The Cybercrime Task Force is the computer internet

investigation agency to which Agent Cameron and Agent
Howe are assigned. And relatively quickly when
Detective O'Hara started his investigation, he was able
to use something called an IP address, something you
will learn a little bit about and hear about at trial.

There was an IP address associated with the e-mail. He was able to track that back and determine pretty quickly that the three e-mails that had gone to the Moss & Barnett employees in 2009 had come from the Kostolniks' wireless router. So, what he realized is at that point in time what Matt Kostolnik realizes is it looks like it is him that is sending the e-mails. And what Detective O'Hara had in front of him was either Matt Kostolnik was sending those e-mails, or someone has hacked into his router and is sending those e-mails.

A few days after Detective O'Hara got involved in the investigation, he also was doing some simple internet research and Googled Matt Kostolnik's name. And by doing that, he discovered the fake MySpace page that Barry Ardolf had created in Matt Kostolnik's name.

And this, showing you on the screen a printout of that MySpace page as it existed in April of 2009, but it was also the same one Detective O'Hara would have seen early in March of 2009.

Now, if you look at that MySpace page, I will blow this up a little bit, you will see there is a photograph on there, and it is mostly blacked out because I have redacted the bottom portion of it again.

But, as you will learn at trial, that picture right there is the same image of child pornography that had been attached to the e-mail sent to Dave Senger on February 22nd, 2009.

The only difference is that the redaction on the bottom, that black portion, is something I put on there to present as a court exhibit. But, this image had some kind of unique squiggly lines, if you see, it's kind of white squiggly lines on the faces of the two boys. So, that was the same image sent to Dave Senger, but with the boys' faces obscured.

And what you learn, again, is that a few months later when Barry Ardolf's house was searched in July of 2009, you see that is the image that was posted on the MySpace page on the left. Three instances of that same image with the same squiggly lines over the faces of the boys were found on computers in Barry Ardolf's bedroom.

Now, if we go back to the MySpace page, you will also note that on MySpace pages, you can put a little description of yourself on it, and there was a

description on this MySpace page that I am going to blow up. And it says, Matt's blurbs, and there is a section on there that is about me. It says, I bet my co-worker that since I am a lawyer and a darn great one that I could get away with putting up porn on my site here. I bet that all I have to do is say there is a plausible deniability, since anybody could have put this on my site, like someone hacked my page and added this porn without my knowledge. This is a reasonable doubt. I'm a damn good lawyer. And I can get away with doing anything. Lawyers rule the world. I am part of such a big firm that I will have unlimited resources to get off scot free, even though most of the people in my firm, law office, are assholes, I know they will support it. So, that was on that same MySpace page.

Now, I want to take you a few months into the future when a search warrant is done on Barry Ardolf's house, and the same "IBetMyC02.txt" text file, you will see that the same language that was in the "About Me" section of the MySpace page was found in the notes kept by Barry Ardolf of what he was doing. If you compare the two, you will learn, as the evidence will show at trial, it is the exact same language.

Again, the FBI only found this evidence in July of 2009. And back in February and March of 2009,

neither Matt Kostolnik nor Detective O'Hara knew who had sent the e-mails or set up the MySpace page.

And shortly after those e-mails got sent in February of 2009 with the e-mail address that was supposedly in Matt Kostolnik's name, two other lawyers at Moss & Barnett received a strange e-mail again related to Matt Kostolnik.

And I am going to put this up on the screen. This is an e-mail that was received by Joseph

Maternowski and Anthony Dorland on March 8th of 2009 -actually, probably received by them the following Monday
when they came into their office. And it purports to be
by a person by the name of Mary Sill. And as you can
see, it claims to be Mary Sill, a person who was at the
Wxxxxxx Mitchell College of Law on March 6th, and that
she was assaulted by Matt Kostolnik. That is what this
e-mail is purporting to tell the two lawyers from Moss &
Barnett, Joe Maternowski and Anthony Dorland, and it is
signed Mary Sill from Wayzata, Minnesota.

You will learn during the course of trial, ladies and gentlemen, that Mary Sill is a real person, a real person who lives in Wayzata, Minnesota. And you will hear her testify. I will blow that up a little bit so you can see it better.

You will hear her testify that she did not

write this e-mail. That she was not at Wxxxxxx Mitchell Law School on March 6th, 2009, that she has never met Matt Kostolnik; that this incident in this e-mail did not occur; and that this is not her e-mail address. And she never gave anyone permission to create a fake e-mail address in her name.

And ladies and gentlemen, remember a little earlier, I told you that the person identified in the indictment is Victim A, I told you who that was. And you will learn that the person identified in the indictment as Victim B is Mary Sill, the person who Barry Ardolf used her identity to create the false e-mail address to send that e-mail to the attorneys at Moss & Barnett. It is her identity that is charged with being stolen in Count 3 of the indictment.

How do we know Barry Ardolf sent this e-mail? Well, again, in July of 2009, more files were found. This one is from a file found in Barry Ardolf's bedroom called, "March 6th." And on here, as you can see in the center of it, is the name Mary Sill, Mary Sill's telephone number. I blacked out the last four digits, but that is in fact Mary Sill's telephone number. Wayzata, Minnesota, Mary Sill's 2008 gmail.com e-mail address, the password for that e-mail address and then the security question for that e-mail account. And as

you can see at the bottom of that same file as I blow it up, you had in those same notes the names and the e-mail addresses of the two lawyers at Moss & Barnett, Joe Maternowski and Anthony Dorland who he sent the e-mail to.

Later, you can go on to the same file and you can see at the bottom of it, again, is Mary Sill's name. And in the section right here that I am blowing up is the precise text that is contained in that March 8 e-mail, written in the name of Mary Sill to Anthony Dorland and Joe Maternowski, on a file found when Barry Ardolf's bedroom was searched in July of 2009. And again, you can compare the text of the two and see that it is the same as the e-mail that was sent.

Now, again, law enforcement didn't have this information that was in the files that they found in July of 2009 until after the search of Barry Ardolf's house. And going back to when this e-mail was sent in March of 2009, neither Matt Kostolnik nor Detective O'Hara, or anyone from the Cybercrime Task Force knew who was sending the e-mails.

And in fact, after this e-mail was sent, Matt Kostolnik got pulled in front of his supervisors at work and got grilled about, where were you on March 6th?

Were you at Wxxxxxx Mitchell College of Law? Wanting to

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find out if this was a real e-mail. At first Matt

Kostolnik couldn't remember where he was. And finally

he said, I was in court that day. And as it turns out

on March 6th of 2009, Matt Kostolnik was actually in the

Federal Courthouse in Minneapolis arguing a case in

front of Judge Joan Ericksen.

And it was after that meeting that the law firm decided they should hire an outside investigator to find out what was going on. The firm hired an outside law firm, and that law firm hired an outside computer forensic investigator named Scott Johnson. Scott Johnson went to Matt Kostolnik's house, looked through Matt Kostolnik's computer to see if there were any viruses on it or anything like that that could be causing a problem, looked for words related to the e-mails that had been sent out. Didn't find anything, but he did determine by looking through the logs of the wireless router that a device that was not a device under the Kostolniks had been on the wireless router. So, he installed what is called a packet capture device on the wireless router, basically something that gathers up all of the packets of information, all of the data that runs through a wireless router when it is connecting up with the internet, information going to the internet, information coming back from it over time.

And the purpose of this was to determine whether somebody else, besides the Kostolnik family was using the router. And shortly after the packet capture device was installed and during this time period, Mike Kostolnik is at work. And he is told by the receptionist at work that he has some visitors, and he learns that there are two agents from the United States Secret Service investigating a death threat e-mail to the Vice-President sent in his name.

So, you may know the United States Secret
Service, one of the things they do is protect the
president and other public officials, the people in the
black suits and the dark sunglasses who you see around
the President at public events. The Secret Service also
investigates death threats to the President and other
public officials. And you will learn about that through
the course of trial.

And you will learn that at the beginning of April of 2009, that two agents from the United States

Secret Service came to talk to Matt Kostolnik about this e-mail that was sent out on Wednesday, April 1st, 2009.

And you can see that the sender of that e-mail purported to be MattBethanyKostolnik2009@Yahoo.com. And the recipient of that e-mail, or at least one of the recipients of that e-mail was the Vice-President at

WhiteHouse.gov.

What did the e-mail say? I will blow up some of the portions of it. It said: This is a terrorist threat. Take this seriously. Time for a new government officials after a year all are put to death by us. I'll kill you all one at a time or a bunch at a time. I swear to God I will kill you guys. You guys better start watching your back, Matt and Bethany.

When the Secret Service agents asked about the e-mail Matt Kostolnik said he didn't send it, his wife hadn't sent it. And he instead told the Secret Service agents about the other e-mails that had been sent and said I have reported this to the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and the FBI is working on it and that his firm was conducting an outside investigation into who was sending the e-mails.

So now, at this point in time, the Secret
Service becomes involved in the investigation. And over
the next months, at least, two more threat e-mails are
sent with approximately the same type of message as the
one that is in this e-mail that went out on April 1st.
So, who sent these e-mails? Well, again, we have to
look at evidence that was recovered from Barry Ardolf's
house several months after April 1st.

This was from a computer file found in Barry

Ardolf's bedroom that is titled, "MattsNiks-2.txt" and recovered from his bedroom. And as you can see at the bottom of that text file that is shown on the screen, and I will blow up that portion, it has got the MattBethanyKostolnik2009Yahoo.com e-mail address, the password, security question, and other information reportedly related to the Kostolniks.

A little later on in that file, I will blow that portion of it up. The FBI when they searched the computer found this, which is the text of that e-mail threat to the Vice-President of the United States. And if we blow up the bottom, it also has the e-mail addresses of the various public officials that Barry Ardolf sent this e-mail to.

Now, what else was found on the computer files recovered from Barry Ardolf's bedroom is what is called a -- it really could be called a trophy shot. It is a screen shot saved in a computer file format, saved as "Some Sent May 6th.jpeg." JPEG is a file extension for an image, for a computer image file. So, Barry Ardolf took a screen shot of what was on the screen. And what we see is the sent e-mail box of the MattBethanyKostolnik2009@Yahoo.com e-mail address.

And if you look on here, and am taking an arrow and I will blow that up, the last of the e-mails

shown as being sent to Vice-President@WhiteHouse.gov was sent on May 6th 2009.

It was this last e-mail that was sent out, and sort of the persistence of Barry Ardolf in doing different things to try to harm his neighbors that proved to be his downfall. Up to this point, he had done an extremely good job of covering his tracks, of creating fake e-mail addresses, of hacking into a wireless router, doing things to get around being caught to the point where Detective O'Hara of the Cybercrime Task Force wasn't able to figure out who was the one that was sending the e-mails.

But, he had used a lot of the tricks that he had learned from his studies to be able to do that.

But, when he sent this e-mail, that packet capture device, the device that was attached to the wireless router to collect data collected a couple of things.

First of all, it collected the text of the threat e-mail that went out on May 6th, and around it, on the same device ID of the computer that sent this e-mail, it found information related to Barry Ardolf's name and Barry Ardolf's Comcast internet account, indicating that Barry Ardolf was using the Kostolniks' router to be able to send this e-mail. And it was this information combined with a lot of other information developed over

enforcement enough to get a search warrant to search
Barry Ardolf's house. And at this point in time the
investigation was being headed up by the FBI Cybercrime
Task Force. And Special Agent Cameron obtained a search
warrant and put together a team of law enforcement
agents from a number of different agencies to conduct a
search of Barry Ardolf's house, people from the FBI, the
U.S. Secret Service, the Blaine Police Department and
the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, a number of people
went out and executed a search warrant on Barry Ardolf's
residence on July 21st, 2009.

Now, prior to going out there, Agent Cameron determined that there was reason to believe that there might be a number of computers at Barry Ardolf's residence. And so as part of the search warrant team going out to do the search warrant, the FBI's Forensic CART Unit, headed by Special Agent Jerry DeWees, who is a veteran of the Cybercrime Squad, who went out to oversee the search warrants of the computer devices at Barry Ardolf's house.

So, on July 21st, 2009, the search warrant team went to Barry Ardolf's residence. When they arrived they found Barry Ardolf in his yard. They explained why they were there, walked up to his house,

and he let them into the house.

And when they went in, they found all kinds of computers, computer monitors, computer hard drives, and massive amounts of storage media. Here are just a few pictures of some of the things that were found in the course of the house search.

These, as I am starting right here, are just some pictures from his bedroom. A number of the discs that were found, I think I talked about before that there were computers, there were computer storage devices, loose hard drives, CDs, DVDs. And a number of the CDs and DVDs that contained data contained hacking software programs on them.

I will show you one of them. This is a CD that was recovered from Barry Ardolf's bedroom and it was labeled, real hacking software Munga Bunga, which contained multiple hacking software.

Also, this is one of a number of CDs that were recovered from Barry Ardolf's house containing, and it says, BackTrack 3 on it, containing a suite of software programs used in hacking wireless routers called BackTrack. And this is BackTrack Version 3 that is shown here.

And during the course of the investigation, agents found not only this, but other items relevant to

their investigation, including printouts of wireless access points in the neighborhood, manuals on hacking, some of which we saw pictures of earlier, notes related to Barry Ardolf's hacking of the Kostolniks' wireless router, including the encryption key and his accessing of the password to get access to the wireless router, and even open pieces of mail addressed to Matt Kostolnik under Barry Ardolf's bed. And I have blacked out those two black portions on there, the things that I have affixed. Those are, as you can see, a Blue Cross Blue Shield statement that was mailed to the Kostolniks. This and several other pieces of opened mail addressed to the Kostolnik family were found under Barry Ardolf's bed.

During the course of the search warrant in July of 2009, Barry Ardolf was interviewed by both Special Agent Cameron and Special Agent Eric Humbert of the United States Secret Service. And when he was interviewed by Agent Cameron, he claimed not to know much about computers. He was asked about the framed hacking certificate. You will see a picture of that during the course of the trial that he had on his bedroom wall, indicated that he completed training in hacking. He claimed that he couldn't remember any of the specifics from that training.

And when he asked if he was familiar with the hacking software BackTrack, he claimed that he was not.

But, of course, FBI agents still finding a bunch of these discs with BackTrack written on them.

And when they came up to him and said, they showed him the CD with BackTrack on it that was found in his bedroom, he acknowledged that it was his handwriting, but stated that someone had given him a copy, and he had not used it.

Similarly, when he was asked about the mail from the Kostolnik family that was found under his bed, he claimed not to know anything about that.

And after Agent Cameron was finished speaking with the Defendant, he was interviewed by Special Agent Humbert from the Secret Service. And Agent Humbert explained that the purpose of the Secret Service being involved in the investigation were the threat e-mails to the Vice-President. And he asked Barry Ardolf whether he wanted to do harm to the Vice-President, whether they should be concerned about him doing harm to the Vice-President. Barry Ardolf said, no, no, no, he was happy with both the President and the Vice-President. And so Agent Humbert read one of those threat e-mails out loud and said: Well, if you like the Vice-President, then why would you make a death threat

against him? To which Barry Ardolf responded: Maybe I was mad at my neighbor.

Later, after the search warrant was conducted of the house, there was a forensic examination conducted on a number of different computers that were recovered from the residence. And as I discussed, the FBI found file after file of detailed notes on the hacking of the Kostolniks' router done by Barry Ardolf. I have shown you just a small portion of the ones that were found during the course of the search. As well as e-mails, the e-mails that he sent to the co-workers and the Vice-President, notes related to the MySpace page, and again some of them I have shown you during the course of this opening statement. You are going to see more of those over the course of the next several days.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, although you are going to hear testimony and get some evidence on some rather complicated hacking that was done by the Defendant, you are going to hear some technical information as a part of that testimony. I want you to focus on the heart of the case, because the heart of this case is not a complicated case. There is going to be some technical testimony, but this case is about a dangerous man, a person who got mad at his neighbors and decided that because he got mad at his neighbors, he was

going to use his technical knowledge, knowledge that he had acquired to terrorize them and to do what he could to destroy their lives.

I have given you an overview of what you are going to learn over the next few days about what the evidence will show. And ladies and gentlemen, at the end of this trial, the evidence, as you will hear over the next few days, will show beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant Barry Ardolf committed the crimes charged in the indictment.

And after you have heard all of the evidence, I am going to come back here and I will ask that you look at the evidence and apply the law as the Judge gives it to you and return verdicts of guilty on all counts charged in the indictment. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Mr. Mahoney, do you wish to reserve your right to present your opening remarks at the end of the Governments's case?

MR. MAHONEY: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Members of the jury, it is my responsibility, with input from counsel, to always look for a logical place that minimizes disruption of the case, that is fair to your time schedule, and logical in the presentation of things.

And what I am going to do is we are going to

recess at this time, rather than begin the testimony, since it is nearly 4:30. You had a longer day than usual, just because of how we begin jury selection in the morning. So, we are going to stand in recess.

And ordinarily, I would say we will begin at 9:00. We will begin at 9:30 in the morning. You can come in as early as you like. And we will have the coffee on, not that everybody is coffee drinkers, but we will have that on if you need something. There will be somebody in my chambers.

The 9:30 start is for two primary reasons.

One, it will give me -- the least important reason is if I need any extra time to chat with on our time, not your time, with counsel. But more importantly, even though I think the weather forecast ranges, depending on where one is coming from, anywhere from one to six inches of snow, somewhere in that regard, give people a little bit of breathing room, because I am confident I can keep us on track and be fair to you and be fair to both of the parties. So, we will begin at 9:30. The courthouse opens at 7:00. You can come in when you like.

In the unlikely event -- or if you would forget your passkey, you can buzz my chambers. It is out in the hallway up here, and somebody can let you in, in that event, if you forget your pass card.

When you go home this evening, wherever you may go, you can, of course, tell people where you have been, what you are doing. You are a juror on the case. You can say the name of the case. You can say what the charges are, and that the Defendant denies the charges. That is all you should say.

And you and I all know people, because it is easy to say to you, you can't investigate and ask questions of people, and I have talked about the internet and the media issue, but we all are friends with people, and maybe even have family members where without asking a question, you can just say the right thing and they will just start talking and tell you probably what you are trying to seek to find out so you can actually say, well, I didn't ask anybody a question.

Well, it is your responsibility as a juror, going back to that very important principle of what should happen in this case, no matter what your verdicts may be, should be based upon what goes on in here.

You also have a responsibility not only not to do investigation or ask questions, but also to interrupt somebody and say, look it. I am on a case. This is the name of the case. This is what we are hearing, but I can't talk about it or let you ask me questions or give me your opinions on whatever issues

you perceive as relevant to the case.

So, perhaps enough said, in the unlikely event you get exposed to some information, or someone tries to talk to you, then I would like to know about it promptly in the morning. I hope you have a nice evening. Safe travels.

I thank you for your full attention and patience today and we stand in recess until 9:30 tomorrow morning. You can leave your -- I wouldn't leave the three-ring books out here, although they would be safe here. You can just leave them on your table in the jury deliberation room. We are in recess.

(Jury excused.)

THE COURT: If I may, Counsel? I admittedly didn't give you input into the 9:30 start. Two things. One, Mr. Mahoney they will have your client -- they will pick your client -- I am still waiting to hear, in between the Marshal Service -- and this is about, currently, about tomorrow morning. I know the way tomorrow morning is going to be handled, and that explains another reason that I didn't explain to the jury, for the 9:30, although I think the weather is reason enough. But your client will be picked up at 7:30 tomorrow morning by the Marshal Service and will be -- I will ask that he be brought to the courtroom, or

it can be the courtroom next door, as well. It won't be open to the public. The purpose of that is for you to consult with each other. So, whether it is here -- I can arrange a spot at 8:00 -- so, he can be in the courtroom no later than 8:00 in the morning. So that would give you an hour and a half. There is 90 minutes there.

I believe that there may be an issue about staying significantly after tonight, and I am getting that information as we speak. We will have it in the next couple of minutes. And also, trying to make arrangements at Ramsey County, and you say, well, what arrangements? Because I don't view a glass pane as acceptable between a lawyer and a client. The jail has their job to do, but -- so, I am waiting for that information now.

So, we know at a minimum we have the 8:00 to 9:30 in the morning, rather than just 8:00 to 9:00. And then I will likely set that up and communicate with the Marshal Service so that you can have your private access, and yet the Government can go about their business.

I will probably set it up in the courtroom next door. And it won't be open to the public. Who you want here is, then, as long as the Marshal -- I assume

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    it is going to be you and your client, Mr. Mahoney?
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                MR. MAHONEY: Yes, sir.
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                THE COURT: So, we have got that set up for
    tomorrow morning. We can probably recreate that each
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    day. What I am waiting to hear from is to -- there is
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    communication going on. I had gotten a message on the
7
    instant message between the Marshal Service and Ramsey
    County and we will get that figured out. I am not
8
    saying everybody is going to be happy or in agreement.
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    I want to determine that, currently, and then I will
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    give you the message. Because I don't know where you
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    are at. I am just assuming you are saying, well, even
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    with 90 minutes tomorrow morning, to begin with, I will
    take as much time as I can get this evening. We are
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    working on that right now. So, I will get that
    information to you shortly. That is where Ms. Schaffer
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    just went, so --
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                MR. MAHONEY: Your Honor, if I might just on
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    that? Once he is back in Ramsey County, the problem
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    yesterday was the booking in process.
21
                THE COURT: Exactly.
22
                MR. MAHONEY: Once he is booked in, we can
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    share a space together and speak.
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                THE COURT: We will see, because that is not
25
    true in all of the jails. That is the problem.
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    varies dramatically. So, we are going to get the
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    information on that and get that set up, because we are
    not going to have a repeat of what happened -- it may be
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    nobody's particular fault. There may have been some
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    protocol -- unfortunately, I learned about it at 9:00
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    this morning as we were in the courtroom, so did most of
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    my staff. And obviously, it is beyond the control of
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    Mr. Rank. And so I am not suggesting -- I mean, so we
    have got tomorrow morning set up. So, I think that is a
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    good start and we are just waiting --
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                THE CLERK: I am going to go call now.
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                THE COURT: We are waiting on the information
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    now. So, we will get that information to see, well, if
    that is the situation -- but we are getting that
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    shortly. Because there has been some communication
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    going on.
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                MR. MAHONEY: Well, Your Honor, I mean, I can
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    just have a few minutes with him as they are closing the
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    courthouse at five. I can be at the jail later this
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    evening, that is fine. We don't need to keep everybody
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    here. So, I am not too worried --
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                THE COURT: But I think what I promised I
23
    would do is find out the arrangements at Ramsey County.
24
    And I am assuming there is not going to be an issue, but
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    I just want to be able to verify that, so I can
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    represent that to everybody so that everybody knows
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    exactly what is going on, so I don't receive a surprise.
    Again, perhaps best known protocol, I don't know that.
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    But, I just wanted to make sure that I get the
    information so that if there is something that I can do,
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 6
    that I can intervene in some appropriate way.
7
                MR. MAHONEY: Appreciate that.
8
                THE COURT: Is there -- for the Deputy
    Marshals in the room, can he have a few minutes with his
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10
    client right now until we get this information on Ramsey
11
    County?
12
                THE MARSHAL: Yes. We can give him until
13
    five, at least.
                THE COURT: And then I will have the
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    information before five.
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16
                And what I will probably do, this is more for
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    the Defense Counsel and the Marshal Service. Let's just
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    plan to set up tomorrow morning next door. That is an
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    empty courtroom, and there might be others, too. But, I
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    know that one is. So that way whoever is working in
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    here, or if it is opened up for any reason, that won't
22
    interfere with anyone?
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                All right, so we will get back to you on that
24
    issue. And we will stand in recess -- we agreed to,
25
    unless somebody gets a message to me -- I do have the
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one instruction I will send with each of you that I
don't think -- it won't come up tomorrow, maybe it will.

It is not given in writing, but what I refer to as that
404(b) cautionary instruction customized for this case.

I said I would have that for you. I have got that here.

And I will send that to you this evening. I have one
copy, actually two for -- well, I have got four, two for
each of you. I will send that with you.

And then I have nothing further. And then if
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And then I have nothing further. And then if you need -- I will come shortly before 9:30 to the -- I will be in chambers probably by 7:00, but if somebody needs access to me for an issue, I will take it up before 9:30, then send a message to the jury that well, you are ready to go, but the Judge is going to meet with counsel. So, I will be available if needed.

Anything further on behalf of -- you can leave things in here. We can lock it down shortly. Or, if you are going to leave things, Mr. Mahoney, in the attorney conference room, since it is outside of the security barrier, we have already made arrangements. We will have the CSO lock that down for you.

I don't have any court scheduled. Sometimes

I do before 9:30, or I would move it to another

courtroom. You could have access here as need be. And

we will convene with the first witness at 9:30 in the

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    morning.
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                 Anything further from the Government?
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                 MR. RANK: No, Your Honor.
                 THE COURT: Or from the Defense?
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                 MR. MAHONEY: No, Your Honor.
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                 THE COURT: We are adjourned.
7
                 (Evening recess.)
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11
                 Certified by: s/ Jeanne M. Anderson
12
13
                                Jeanne M. Anderson, RMR-RPR
                                Official Court Reporter
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                           VOLUME I (Excerpt)
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     OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. RANK
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